

A Computerized Analysis of Computer Generated Comprehensive Care Plans

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Comprehensive Care Plans (CCP) have become the cornerstone of how regulatory bodies evaluate care rendered at Long Term Care facilities. The taxonomy and vocabulary of CCP's have not been investigated in detail. Concerns have been voiced about utilization of computer generated care plans, as they may be too restrictive. We are studying the language of CCP's from six New York State Long Term Care facilities using a computerized concordance (word frequency and word counting) system developed by J. Spitzer to analyze data captured by computerized care planning systems.

Research encompasses two comprehensive care plan venues: (1.) Comprehensive Care Plans which respond to the 1986 New York Quality Assurance (NYQA) program based on information submitted to the state in the Resource Utilizations Groups (RUGS II) and (2.) Multi-Disciplinary Comprehensive Care Plans which respond to the New York State Minimum Data Set (MDS+). The six facilities use a computerized care planning system which provides "textual care phrases," meeting first the NYQA, and currently, the MDS+ care planning needs. The computer system's care planning phrases for the areas of Problems, Goals, and Approaches are user modified and can be expanded.

Analysis was done on 591 NYQA Care Plans and 534 MDS+ Care Plans to establish total word count and discrete word counts for the 1125 Care Plans.

Preliminary conclusions show: (1) Total care plan word counts are steadily increasing with the continued use of the MDS+. (2) The number of discrete words used by all six facilities from both NYQA and MDS+ responsive Care Plans were at least twice that provided by the computerized care planning system database. We interpret this as evidence against the concept that computerization leads to "canned" care plans. (3) Preliminary analysis comparing RUG-II case mix Physical A (least impaired) residents with MDS+ Triggered Care Plans points to an increase in unique words and word length with the existence of a behavior problem.